

# **GDL in Iowa**

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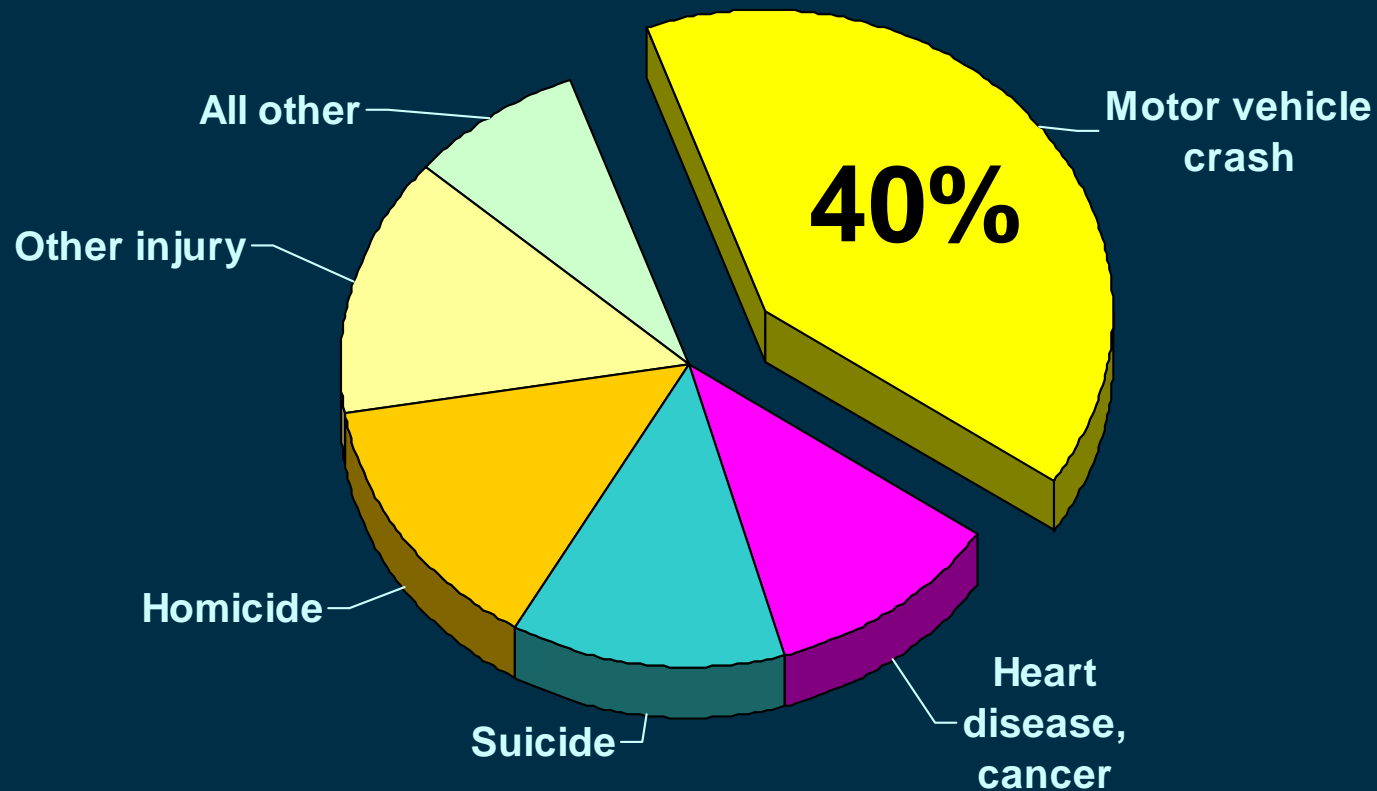
Thanks to:

Robert Foss, PhD

Director, Center for the Study of Young Drivers  
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

# Leading Cause of Death

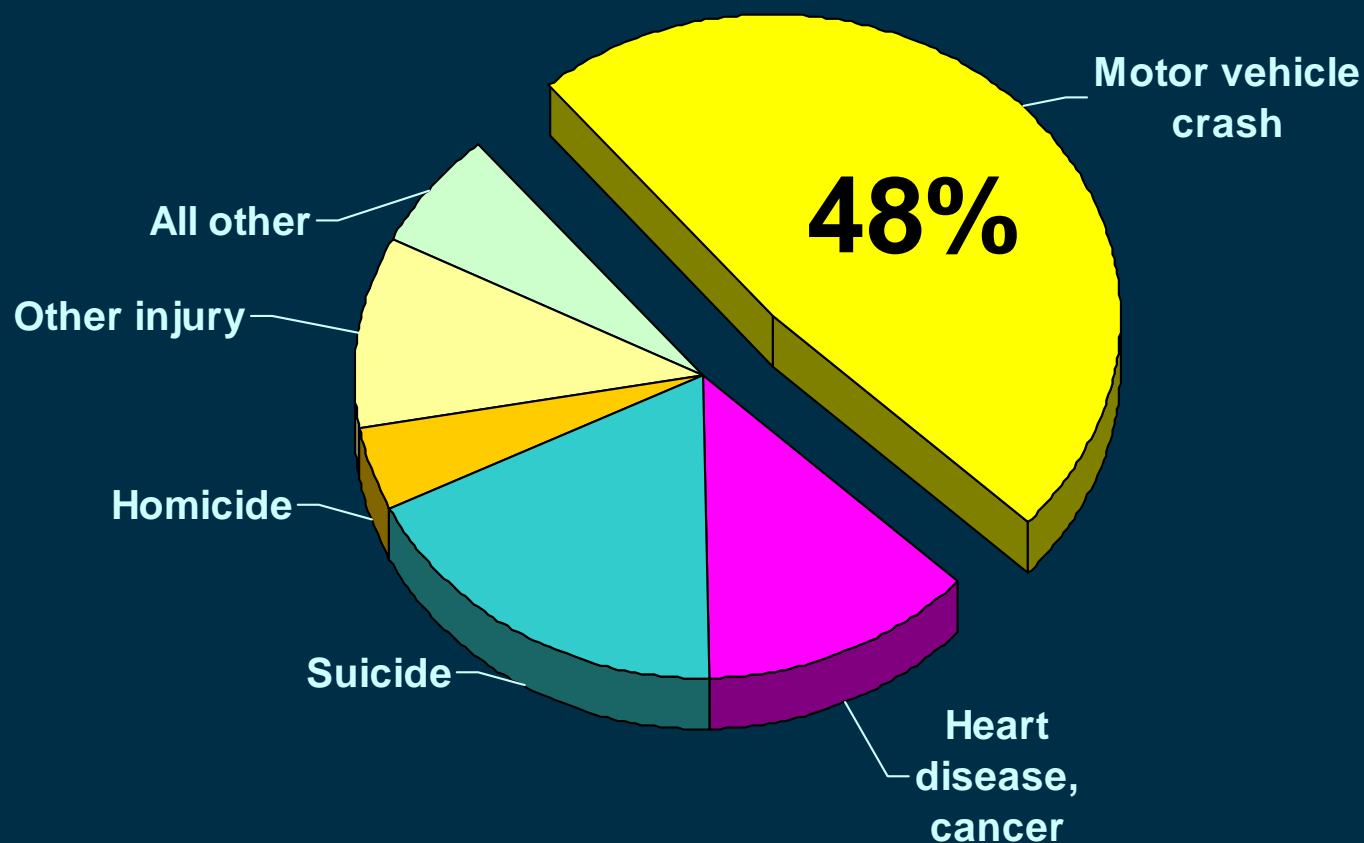
United States, Ages 14 - 17



Source: CDC, 2009

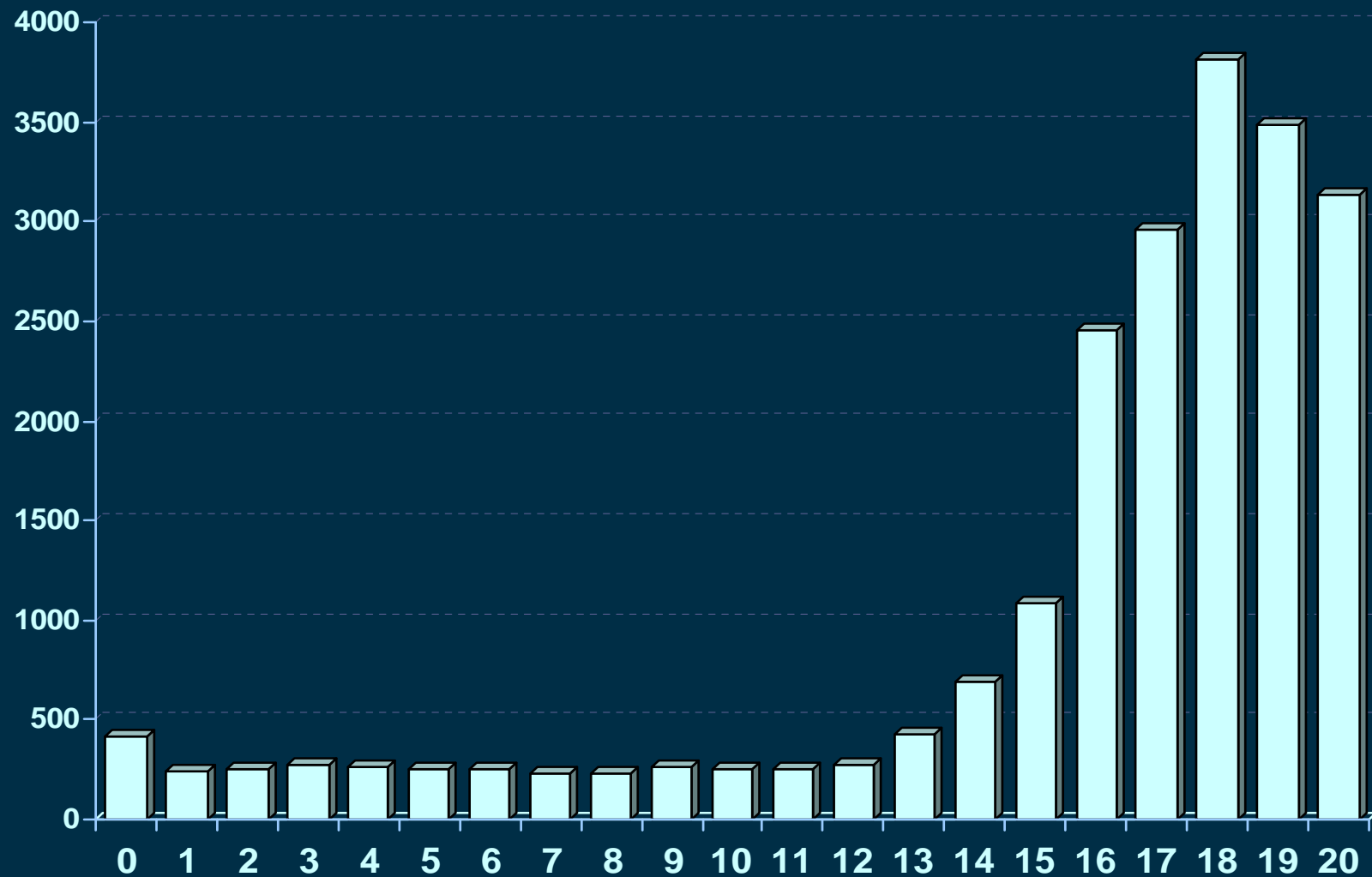
# Leading Cause of Death

Iowa, Ages 14 - 17



Source: CDC, 2009

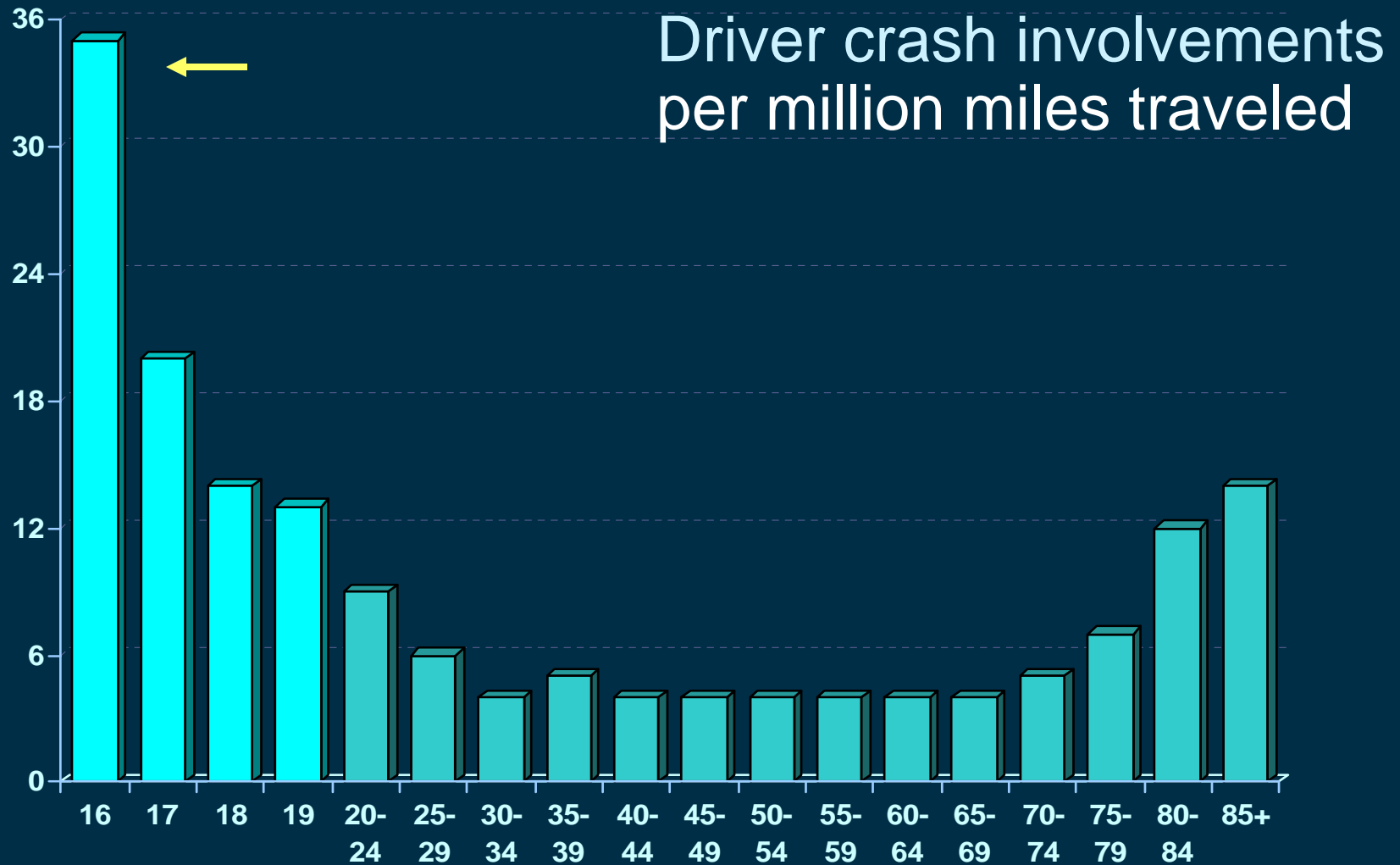
# Child MV Occupant Fatalities by Age – U.S.



Age

CDC WISQARS: 2002-06

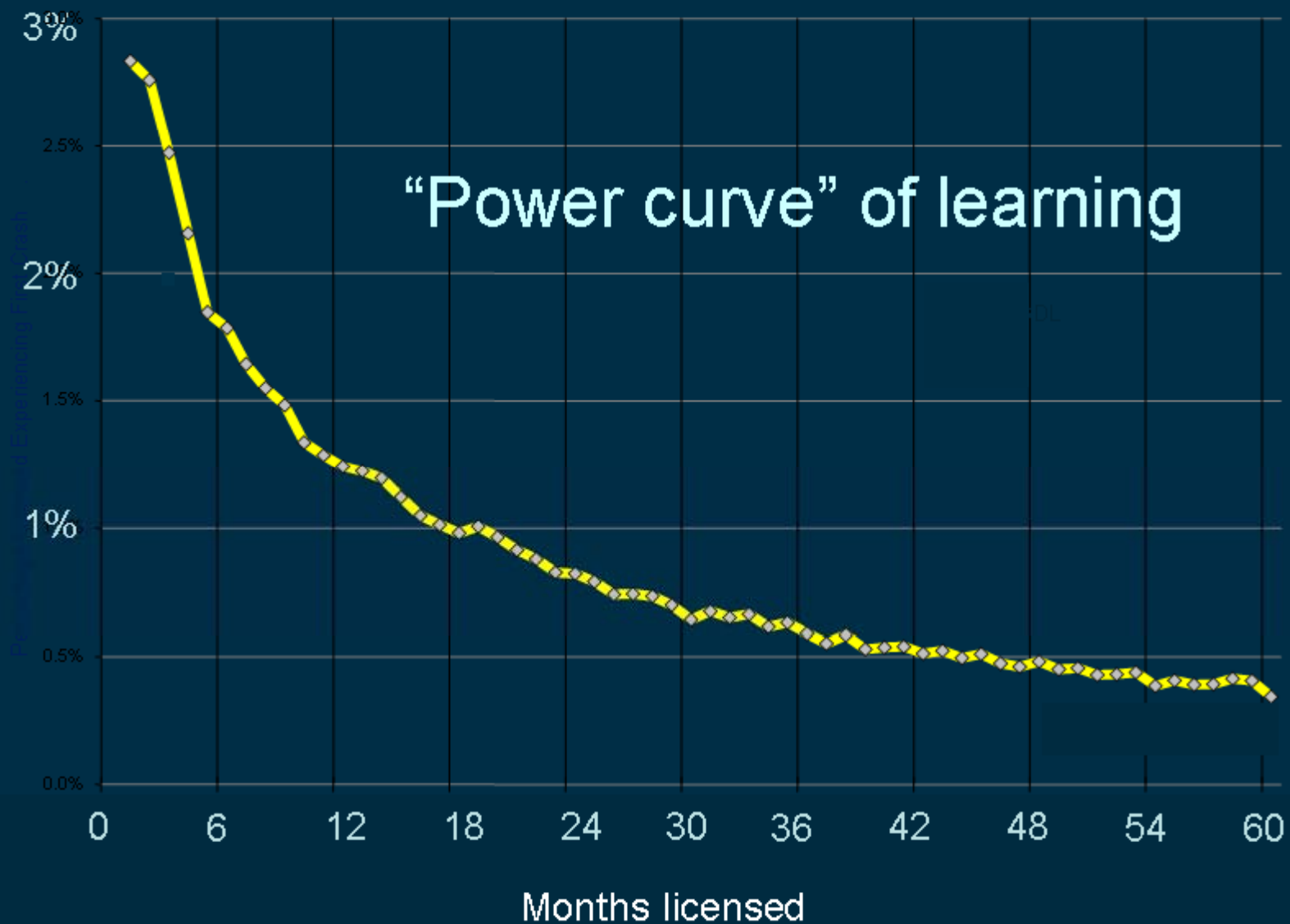
# Crash Rates by Age



Source: A.F. Williams, Journal of Safety Research 34 (2003) 5-15

# Time to first Crash – 16 & 17 yr-olds

North Carolina

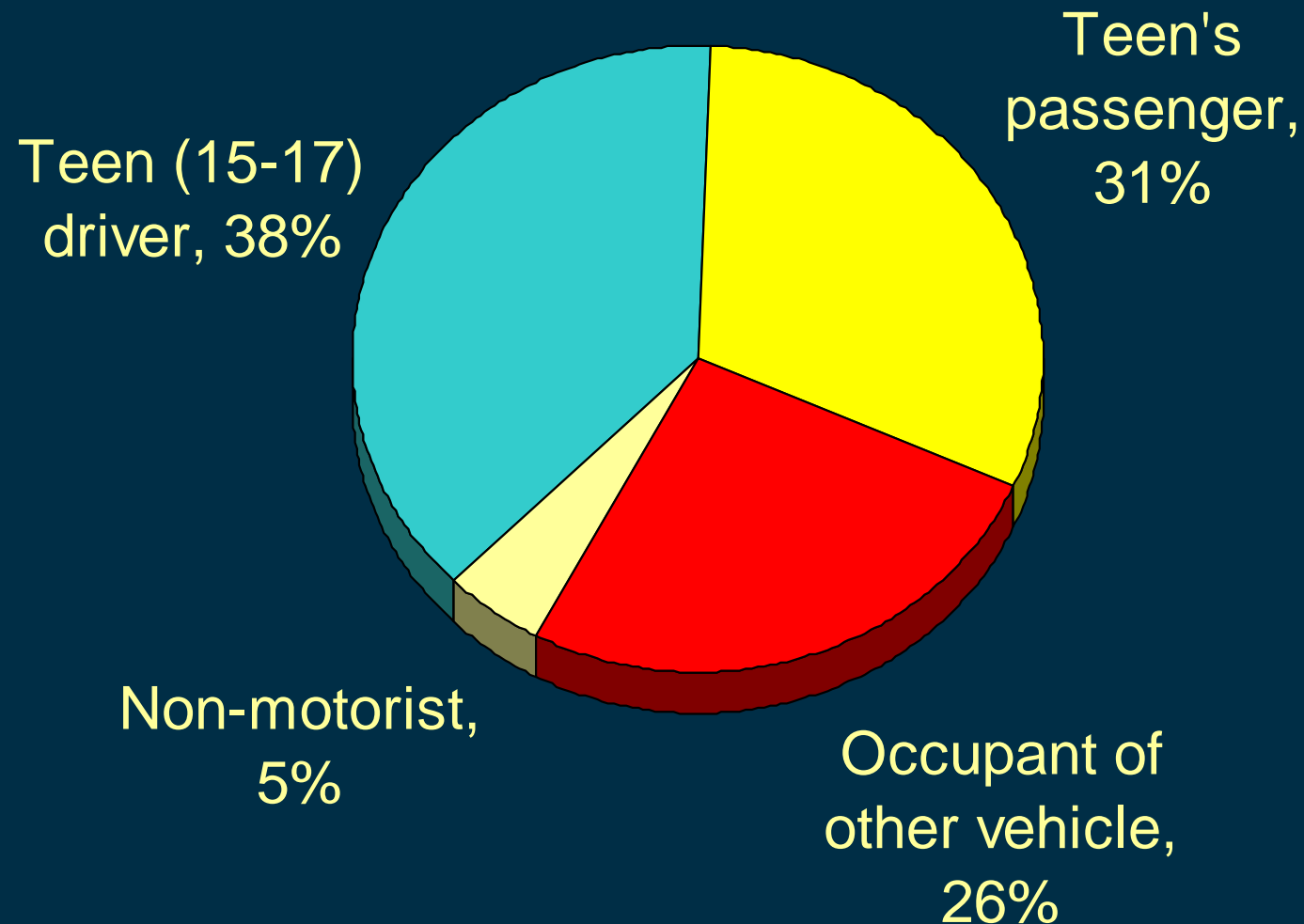


# Young Novice Drivers: Who is at risk?

- Teen
- Teen's passengers
- Other road users
  - MV occupants
  - Pedestrians, bicyclists



# Victim role in teen driver (15-17) fatal crashes Iowa 1998 - 2007



# Graduated Driver Licensing

## The Principle:

Maximize Experience

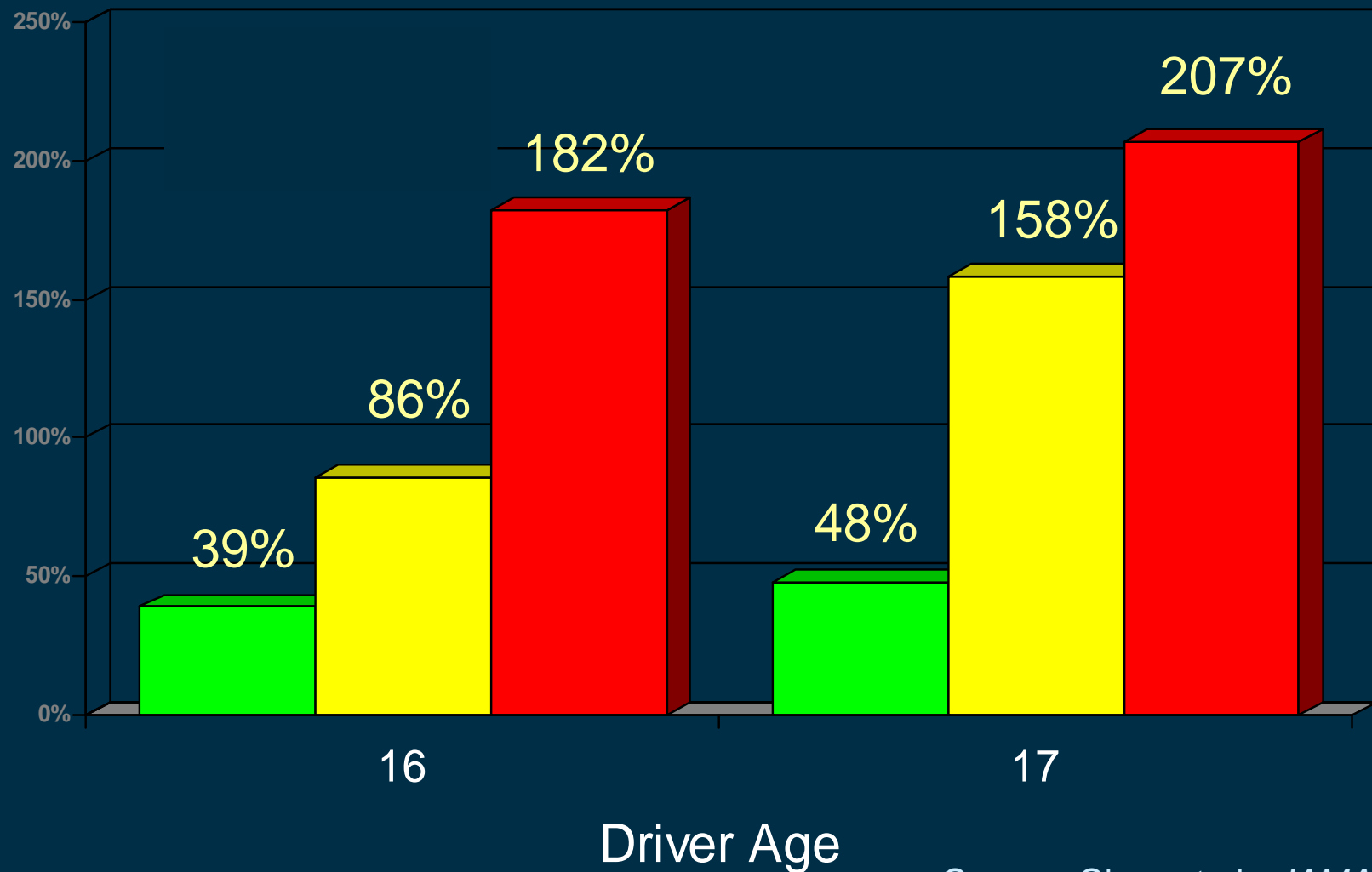
Minimize Risks

Among all novice drivers

# Graduated driver licensing (GDL) system should include:

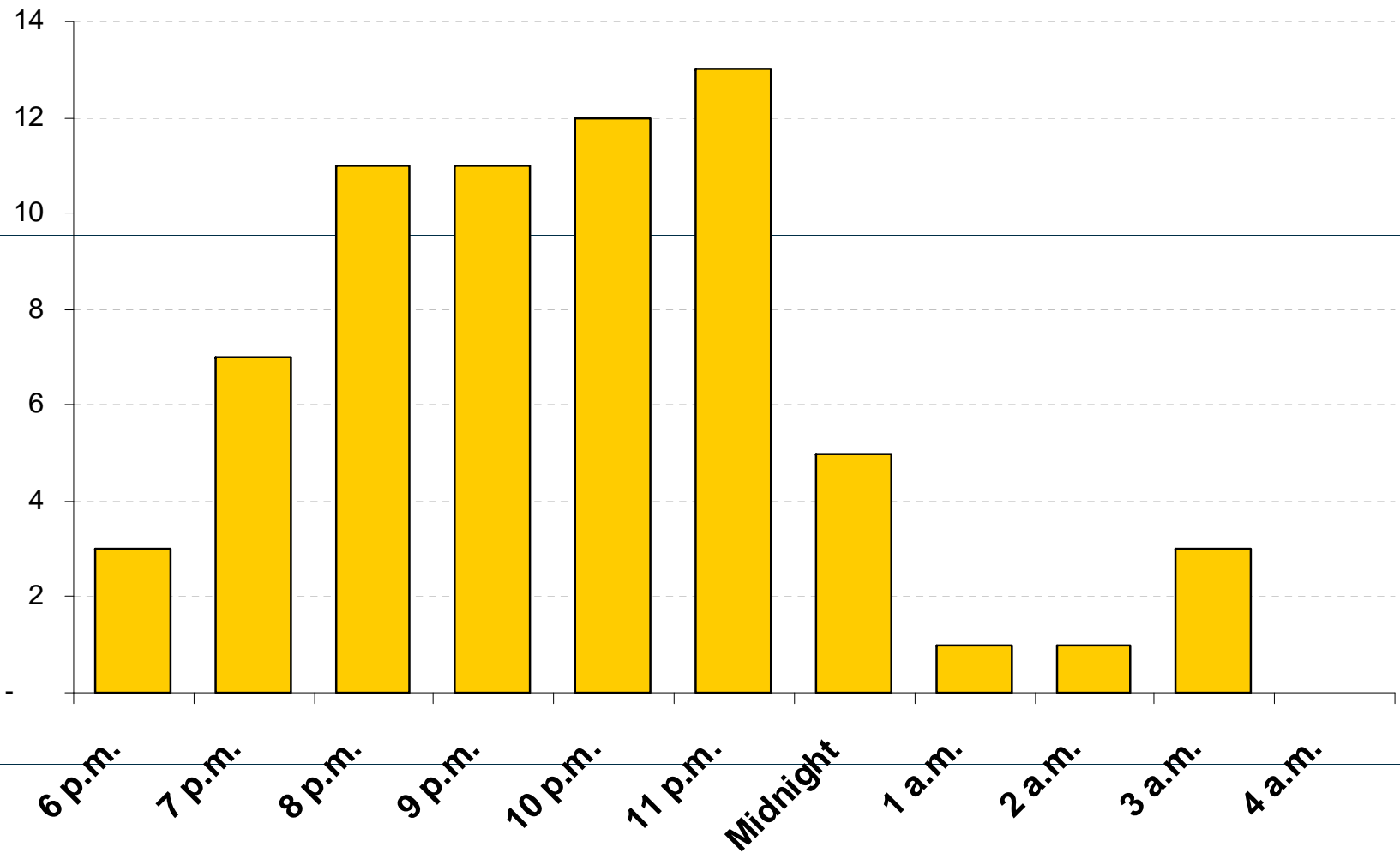
- 1<sup>st</sup> Stage - Learner Permit
  - Supervised driving only (preferably 12 mo.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage - Intermediate (6 months)
  - Night driving restriction (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.)
  - Passenger restriction ( $\leq$  1 teen passenger)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage Full License
  - No restrictions

# Increased Risk of Driver Death by Number of Passengers and Driver Age

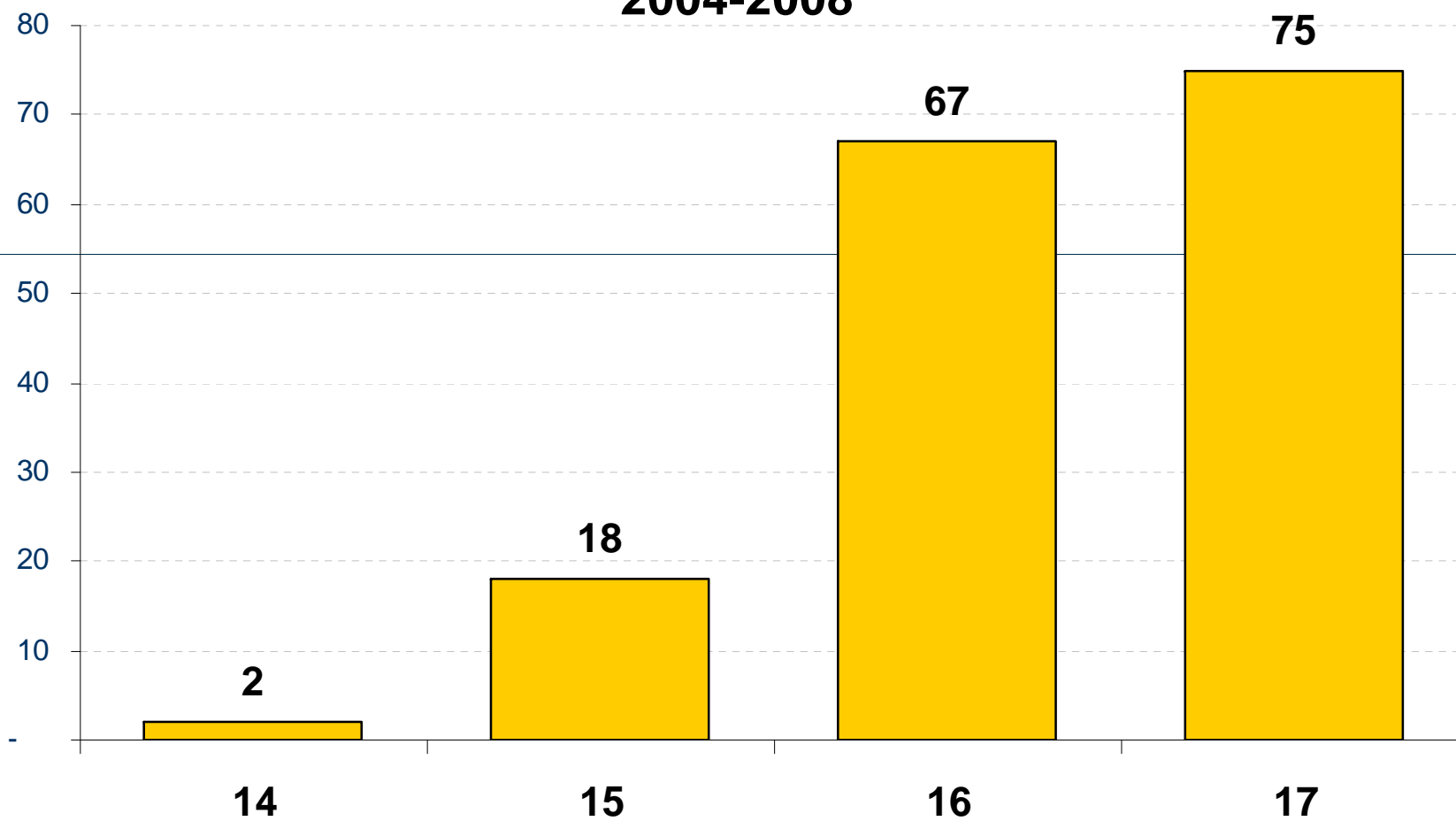


Source: Chen et al., *JAMA*, 2000.

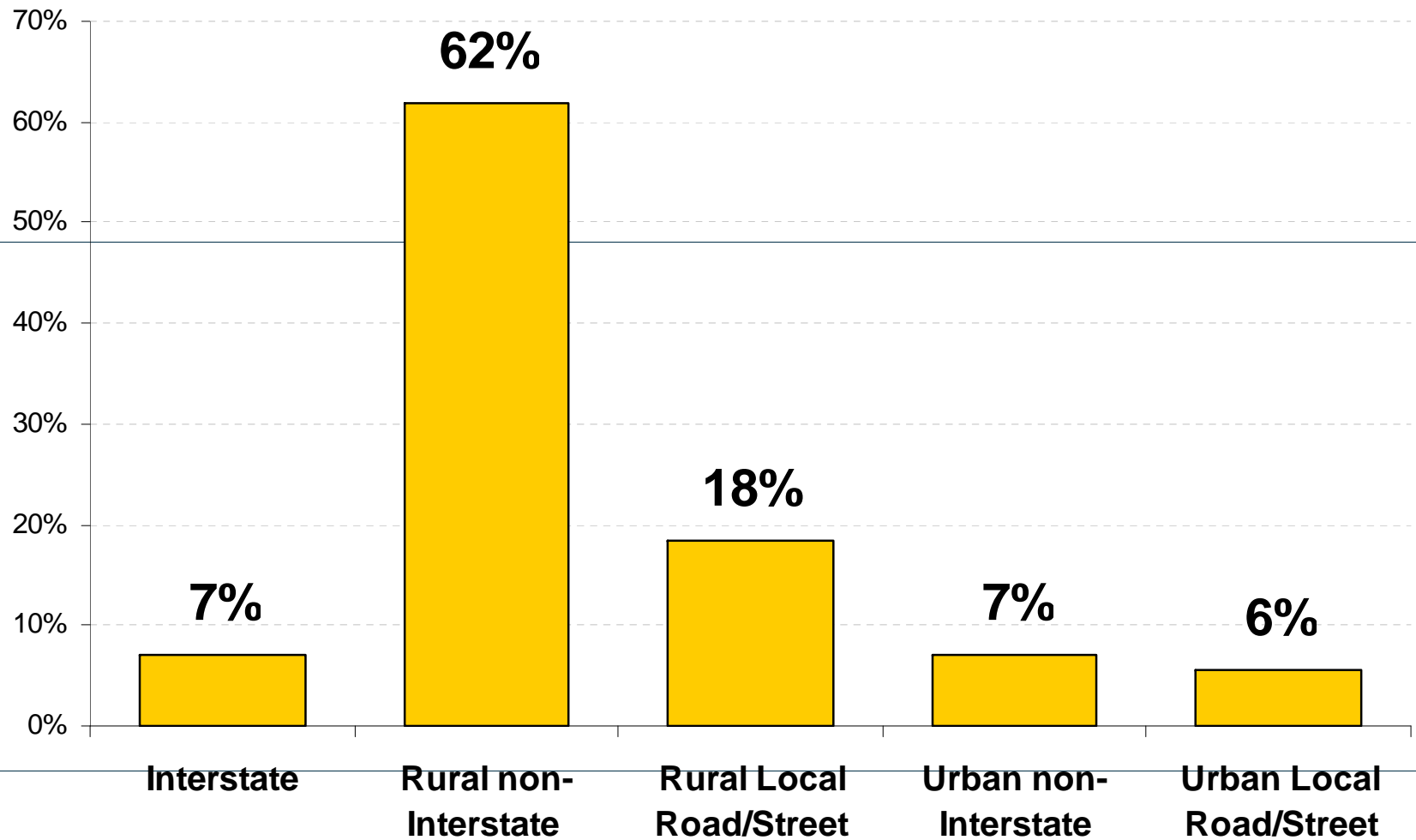
## Iowa Teen (16-17) Nighttime Driver Fatal Crash Involvement by Time, 2004-2008



## Iowa Teen Driver Fatal Crash Involvement by Age, 2004-2008



## Iowa Teen (16-17) Driver Fatal Crash Involvement by Road Type, 2004-2008



# Iowa GDL System

- Level 1: 6 months supervised driving
  - ❑ Begin age 14
  - ❑ 20 supervised practice hours (2 at night)
- Level 2: 12 months restricted
  - ❑ Age 16
  - ❑ Only supervised driving from 12:30 - 5 a.m.
  - ❑ No passenger restriction
- Level 3: Full License
  - ❑ Age 17
  - ❑ No restrictions



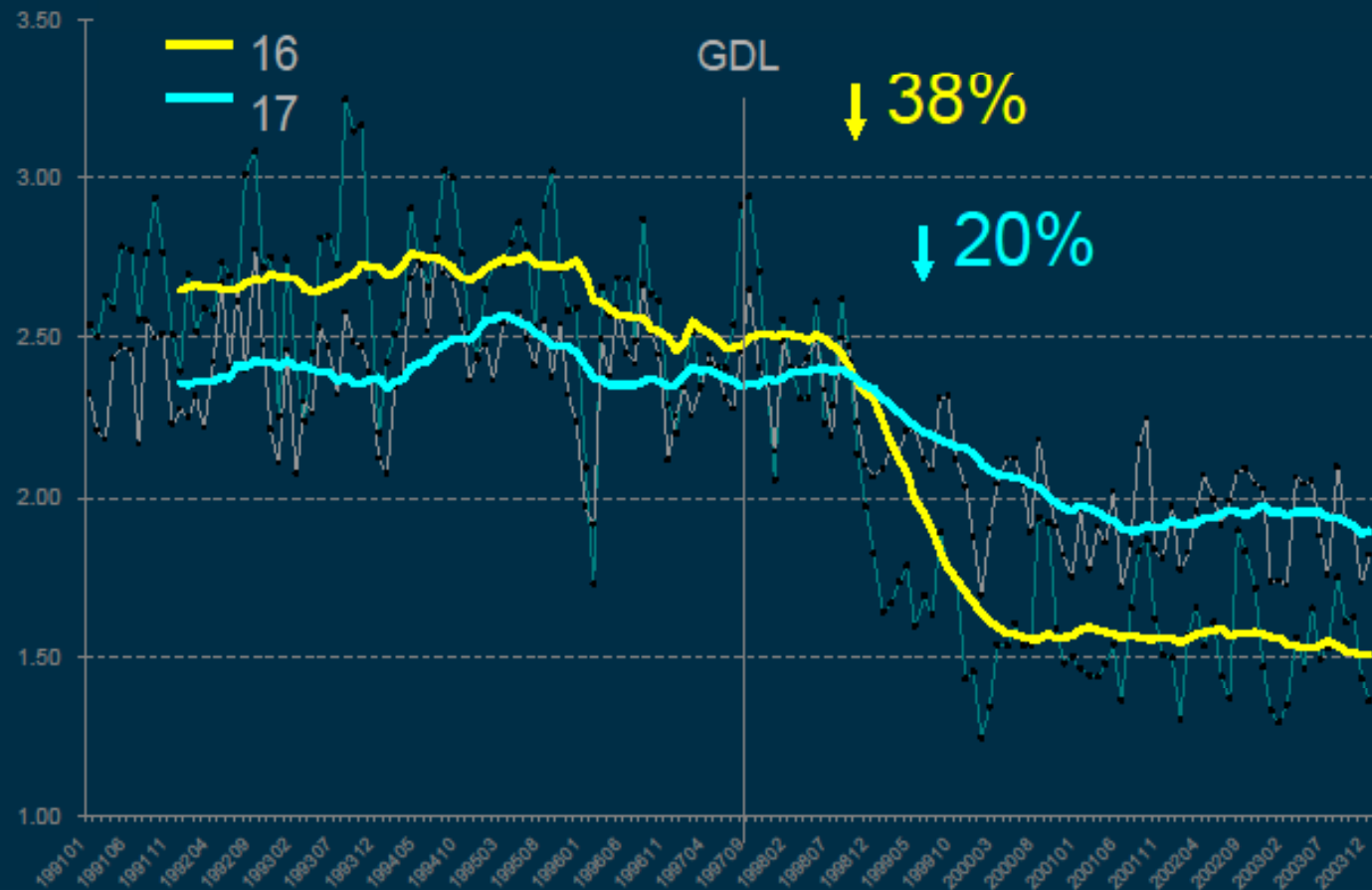
# Conclusions

- Lack of experience is the culprit
- GDL works (as well as it's structured)

# North Carolina GDL

- North Carolina GDL System
  - Level 1:
    - 12 months supervised driving
    - Begin age 15
  - Level 2:
    - 6 months protective limits
    - Only supervised driving from 9 p.m. -5 a.m.
    - <1 passenger under 21
- Level 3:Until age 18

# Crash Rate Ratios for 16 & 17 year-olds vs. 25-54 year-old, NC 1991-2003



# GDL Proposal

- Key Stakeholder group met July, 2009
- Reviewed available data, research, other states
- Discussed GDL history, political atmosphere
- Came to consensus on a proposal



# GDL Proposal

- Maximize Experience
  - Instruction permit – 12 months
- Minimize Risks- Institute Protective Limits
  - Nighttime limitation – 10 pm to 5 am (waivers available for school and work activities)
  - Passenger limitation – no more than one passenger under the age of 21 (excluding family members)
  - In effect during the intermediate license phase (first 12 months)

# Results of Iowa Parent Survey Concerning Teen Driver Issues

Conducted October 2009

GDL Stakeholder Meeting  
Des Moines, IA  
November 13, 2009



# The issue

- How do parents of young teen drivers in Iowa see:
  - the issue
  - the risks
  - the elements of a solid GDL system
- Do parents from rural areas differ?
  - If so, how

# Sample stratification

- Urban 9
  - Pop = 1,426,167 (47% of state)
  - Median county pop = 128,000
- Medium 25
  - Pop = 799,426 (27% of state)
  - Median county pop = 32,000
- Rural 65
  - Pop = 776,962 (26% of state)
  - Median county pop = 11,500





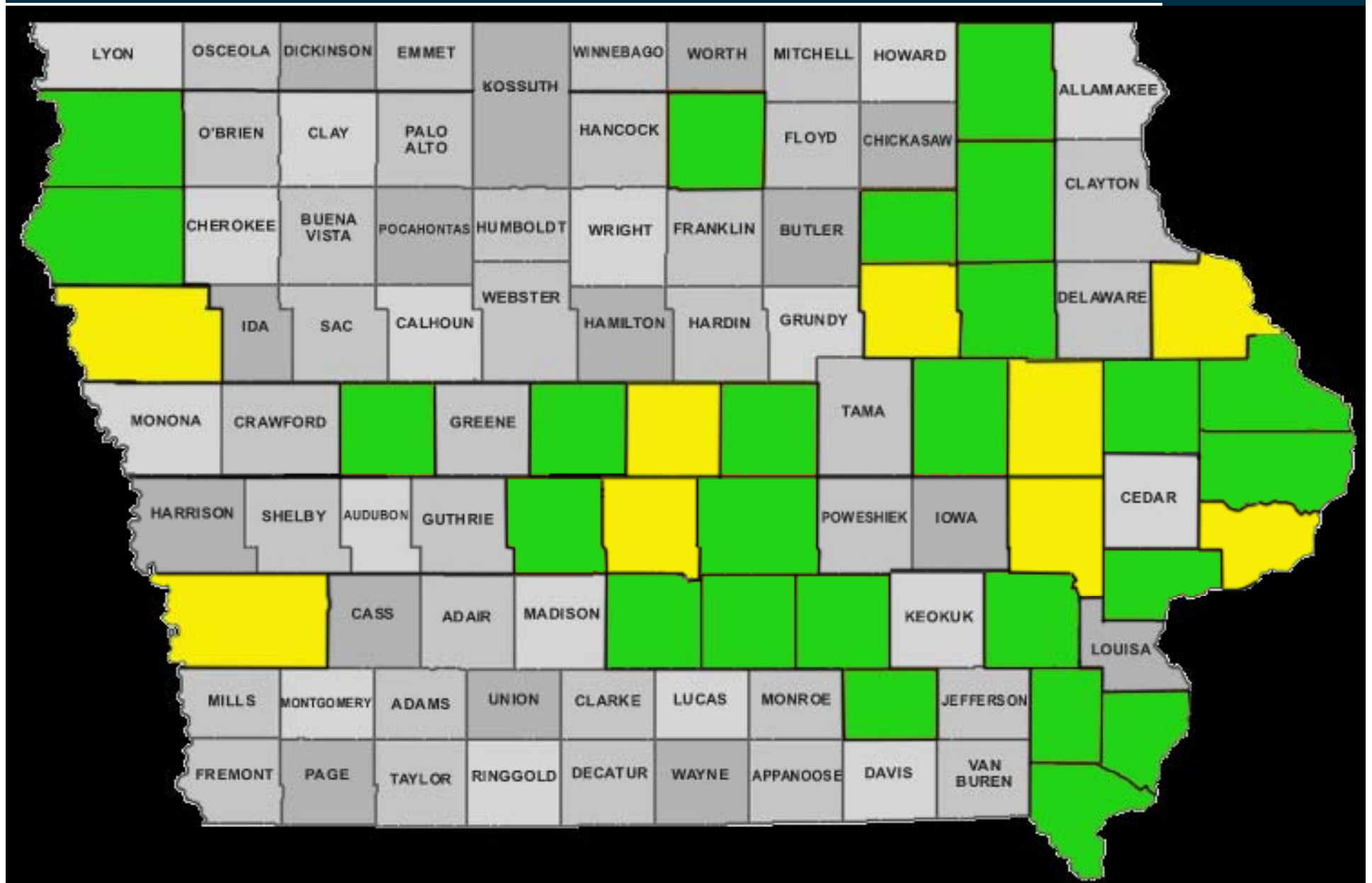
Urban 9



Medium 25



Rural 65

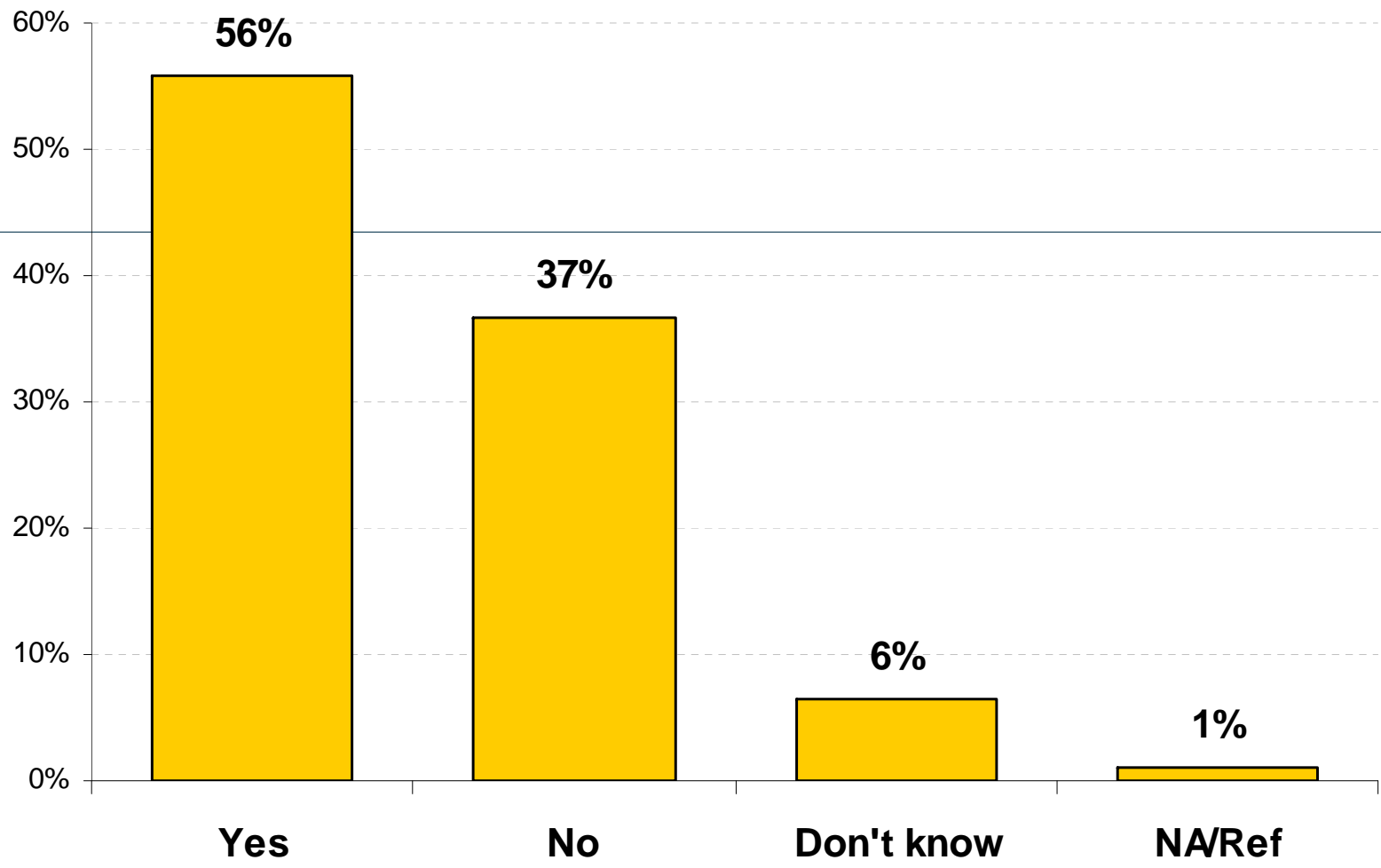


# Sample Characteristics

- N = 1,065
  - 1/3 from each stratum (352, 353, 360)
  - 98 of 99 counties included
- Respondent (main supervisor)
  - Mother – 65%, Father – 34%
- Teen
  - Male – 56%
  - Age 16 – 54%, 17 – 46%

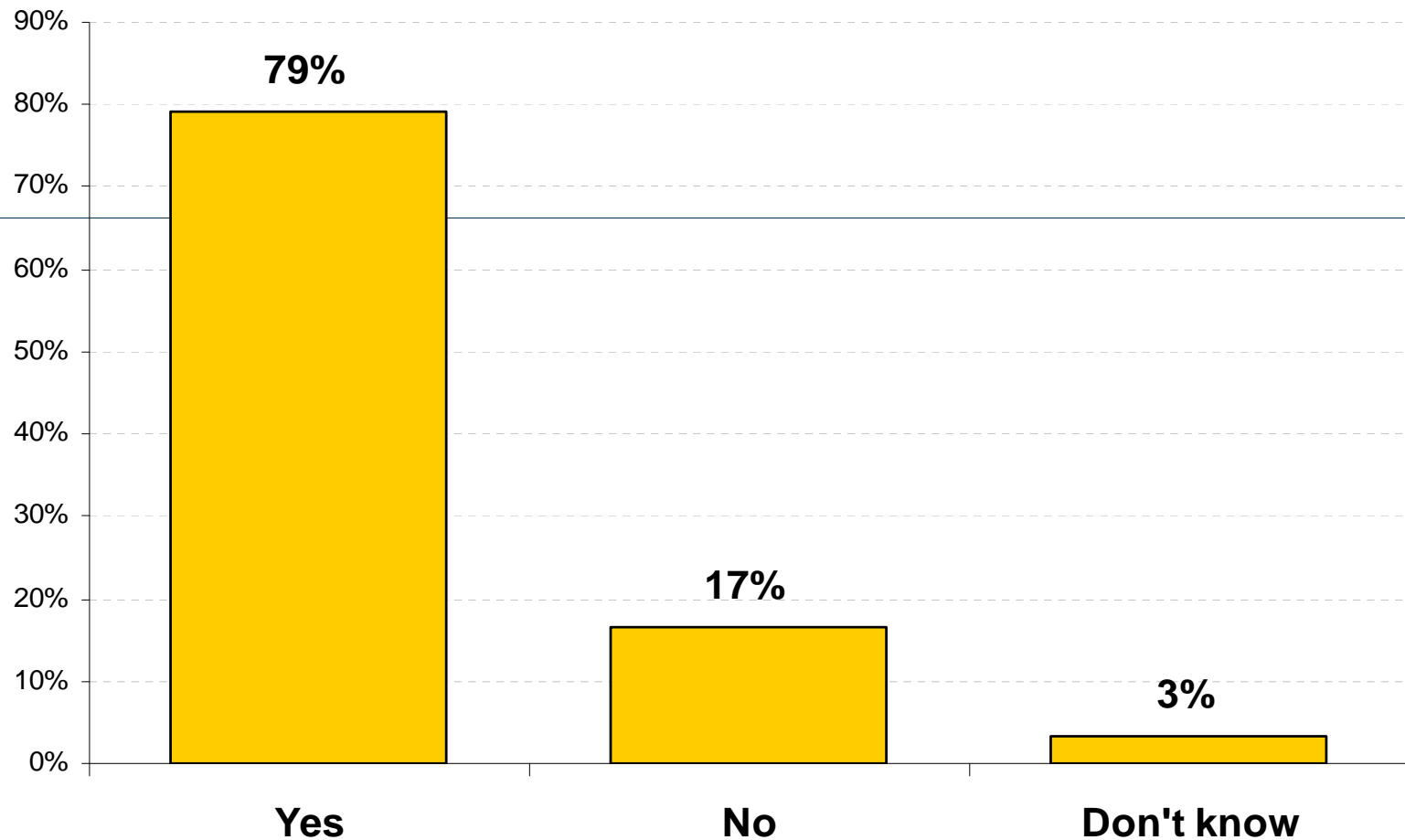
# Permit length

Do you think Iowa should increase the permit length to 12 months?



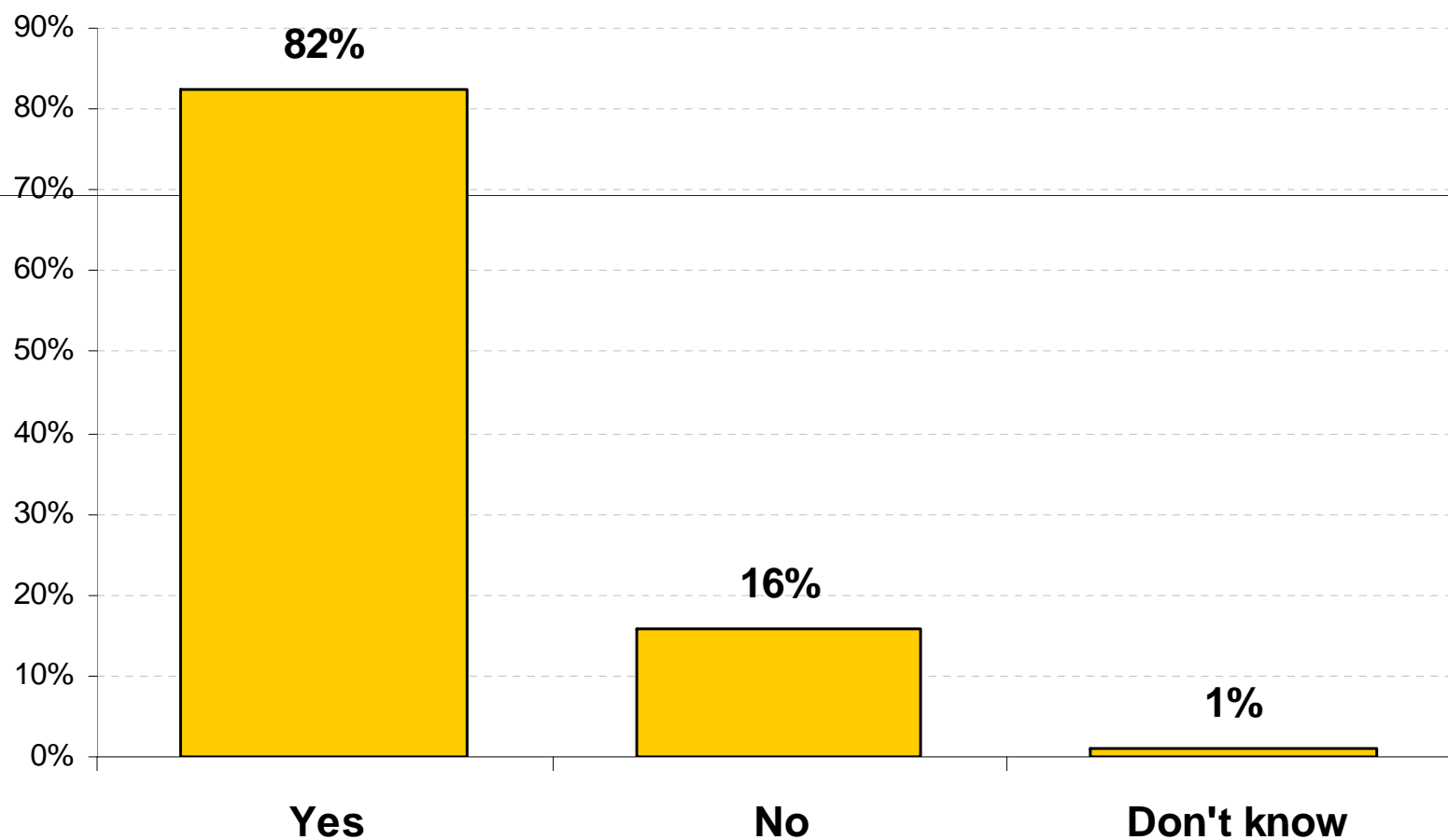
# Passenger limit

**Do you think Iowa should limit newly licensed teen drivers to no more than one teen passenger? (Exemption for family members.)**



# Night driving limit

Do you think Iowa should limit driving after 10 p.m. for newly licensed teen drivers? (With exemption for work/school.)

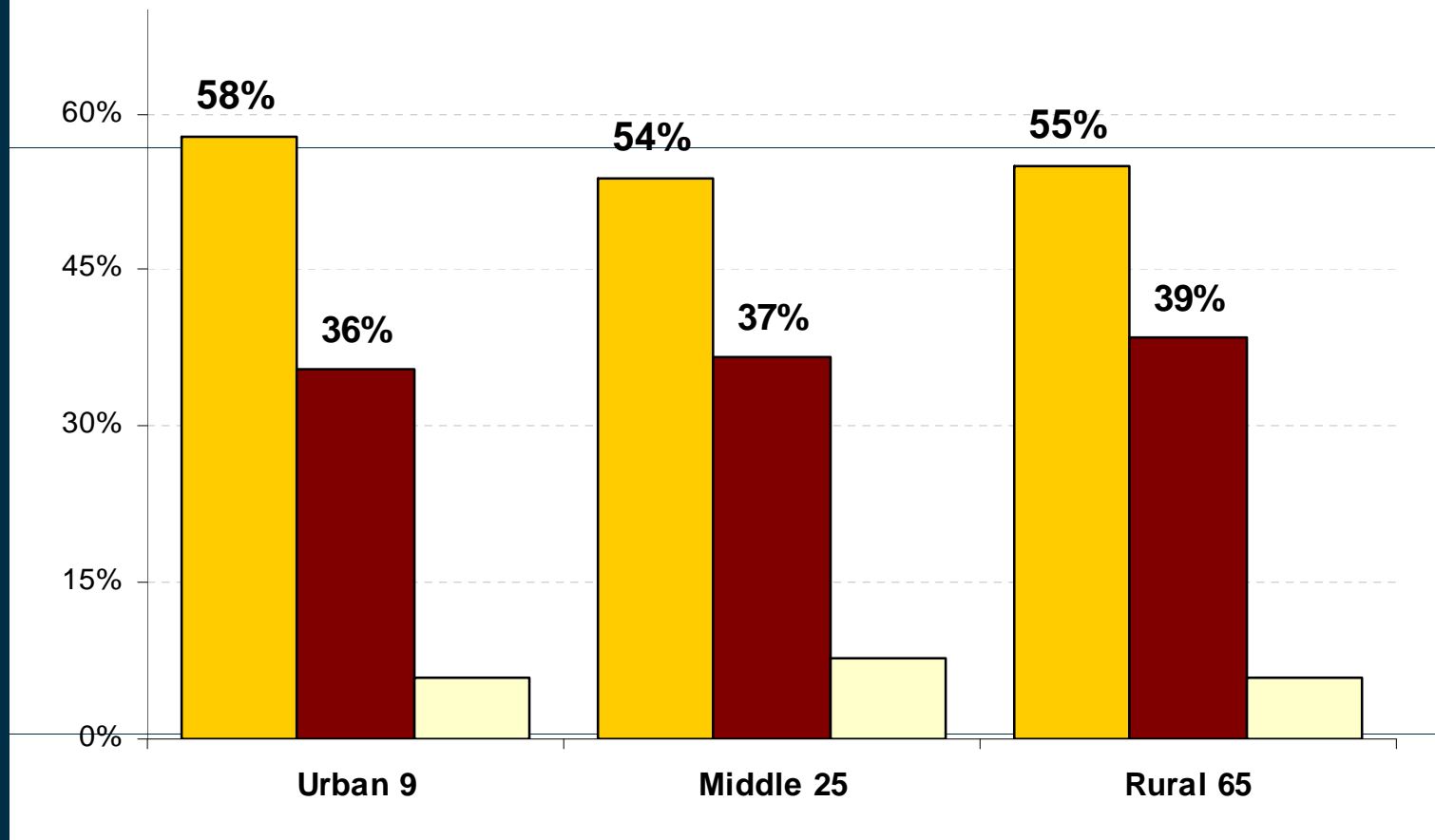


# Opinions in urban vs. rural areas

# Urban – rural differences

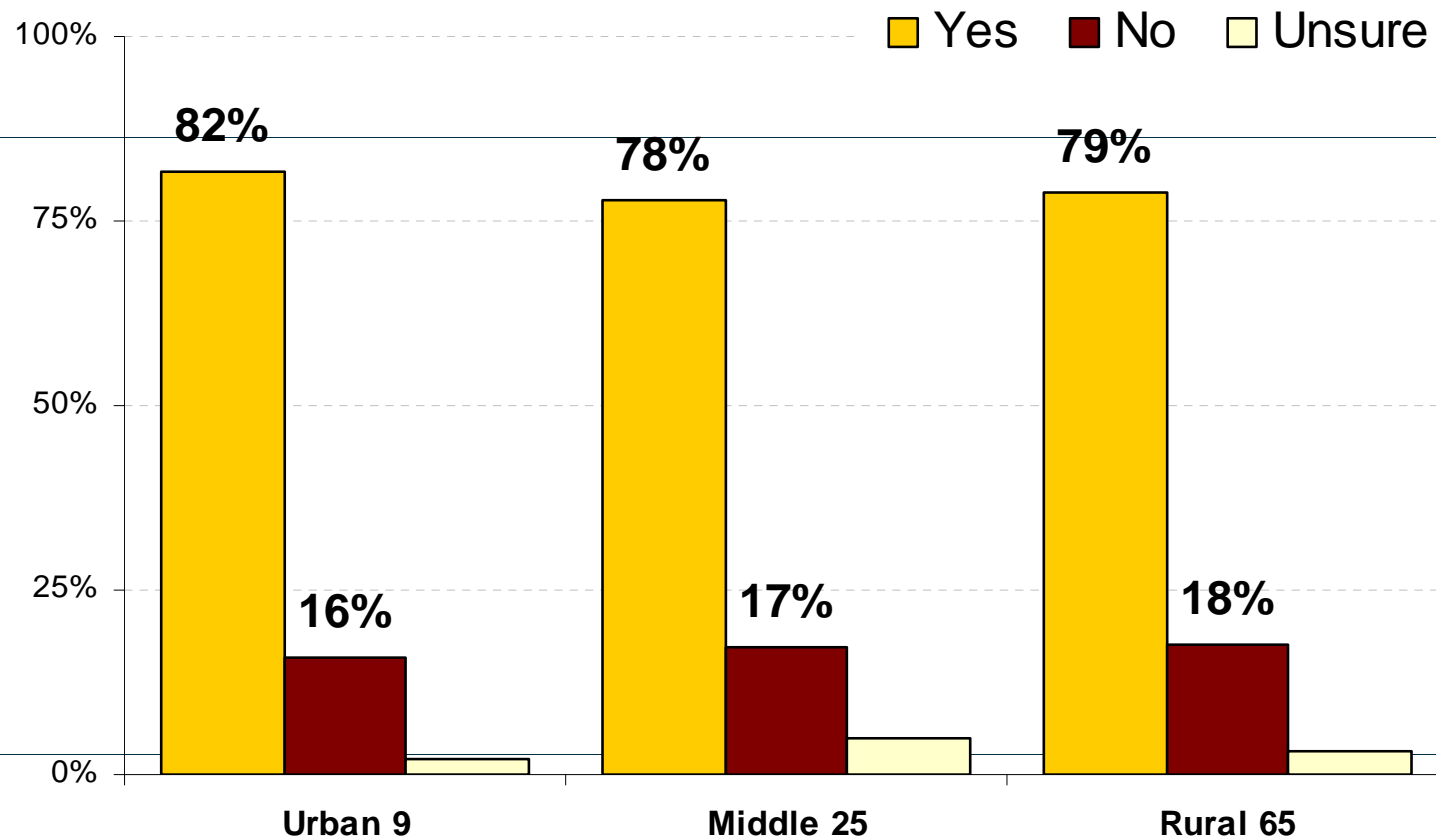
**Do you think Iowa should increase the permit length to 12 months?**

Yes No Unsure



# Urban – rural differences

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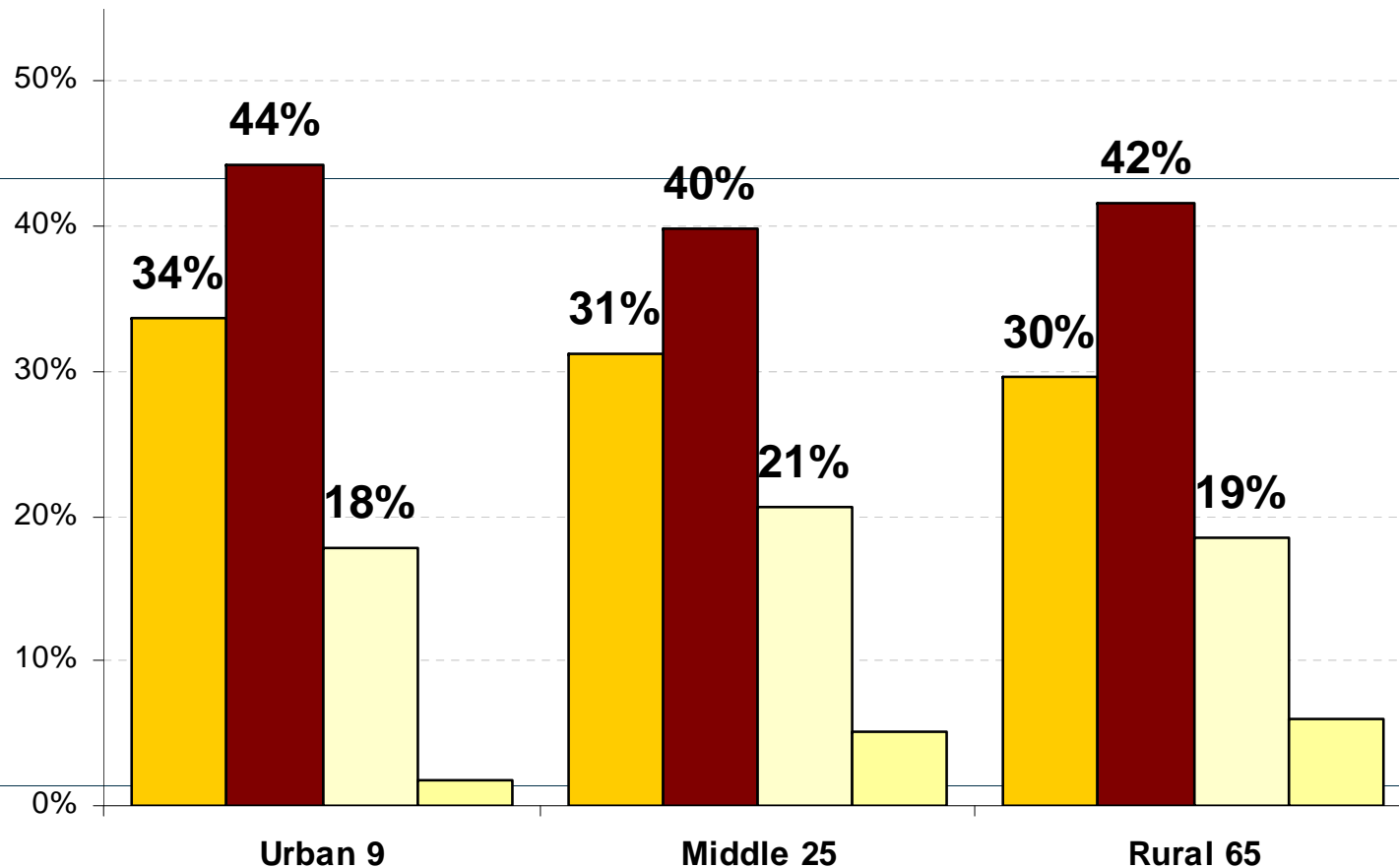




# Urban – rural differences

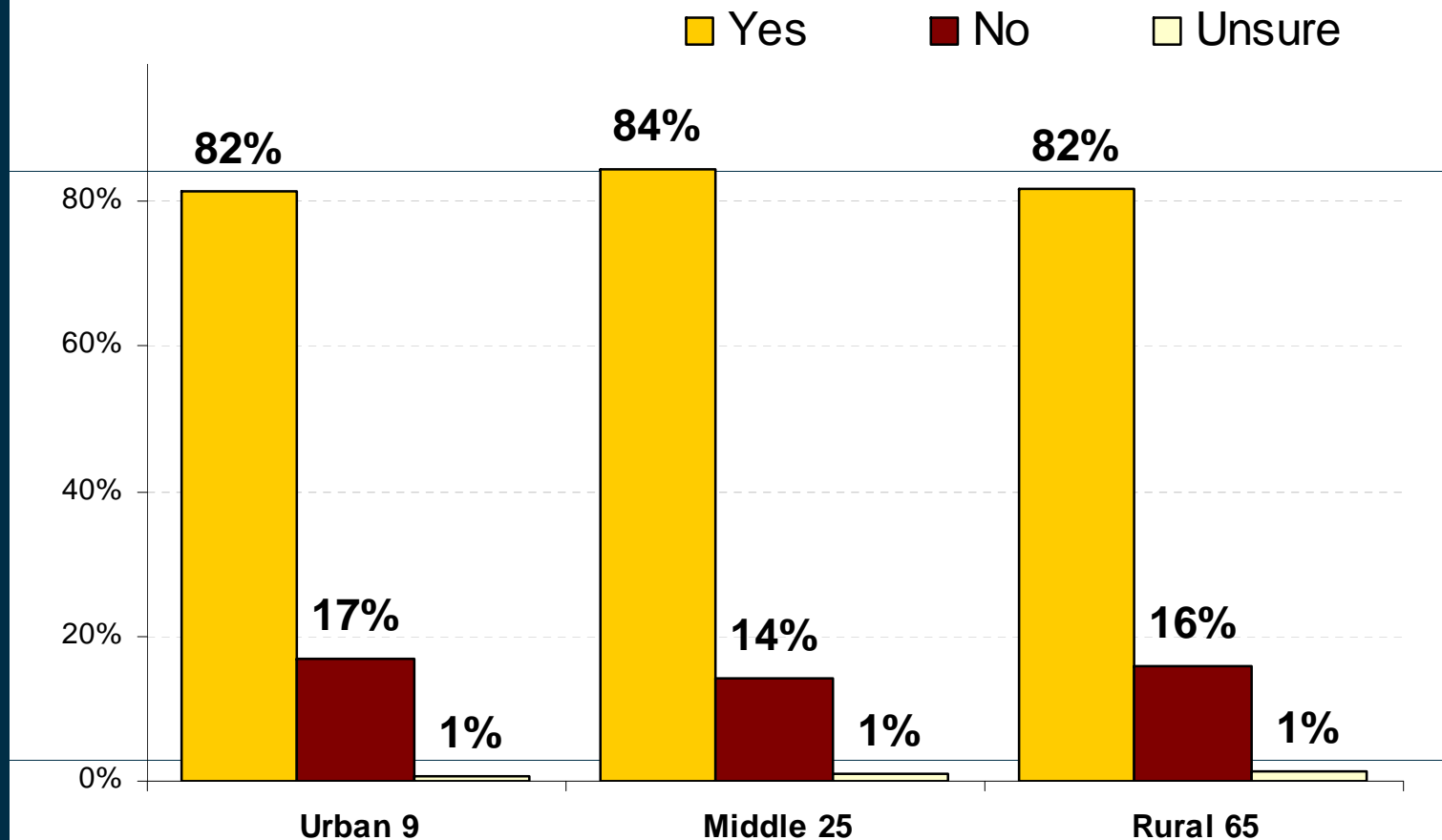
How long should the limit on teen passengers be in effect (if agree with limit)?

■ 6 months ■ 12 months □ Until age 18 □ Other



# Urban – rural differences

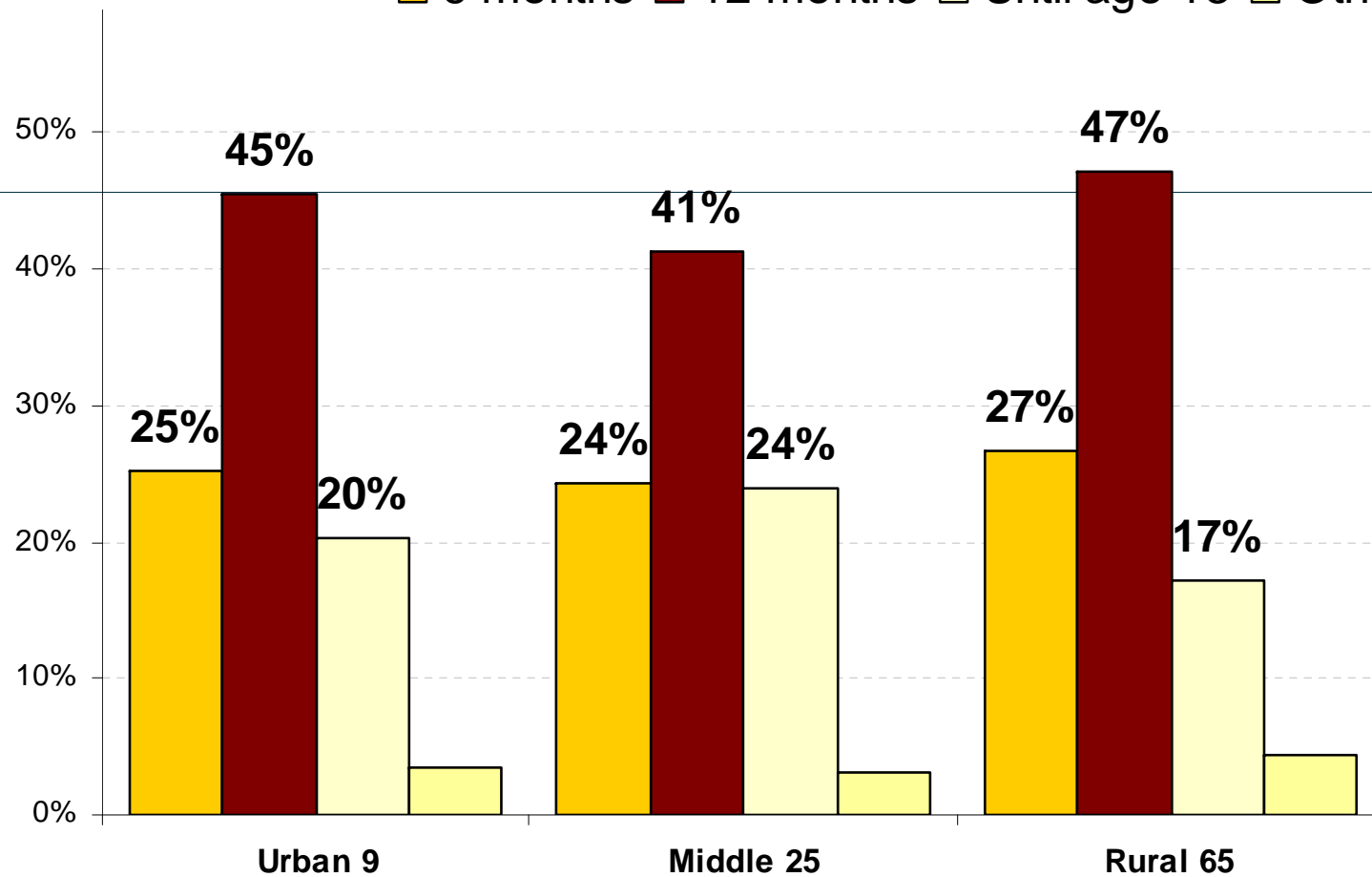
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# Urban – rural differences

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■ 6 months ■ 12 months □ Until age 18 □ Other



# 2010 Legislative Session

- Committee bills were drafted by House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairs (Senator Reilly and Representative Quirk)
- SSB 3071
  - Passed sub-committee
  - Passed full Transportation Committee – amended the nighttime limitation to 11pm
  - Passed the Senate 47 - 1

# 2010 Legislative Session

- HSB 616
  - Passed House Sub-committee.
  - Passed House Transportation (17-4).
  - Was not put on the House debate calendar.
  - Des Moines register negative editorial
  - Issues of concern
    - Passenger limitation – sports, carpooling
    - Nighttime limitation – attending late movies

# Some Common Issues

- Curfew
- Teens in rural areas need to carpool
- Matter of Convenience/Enforcement



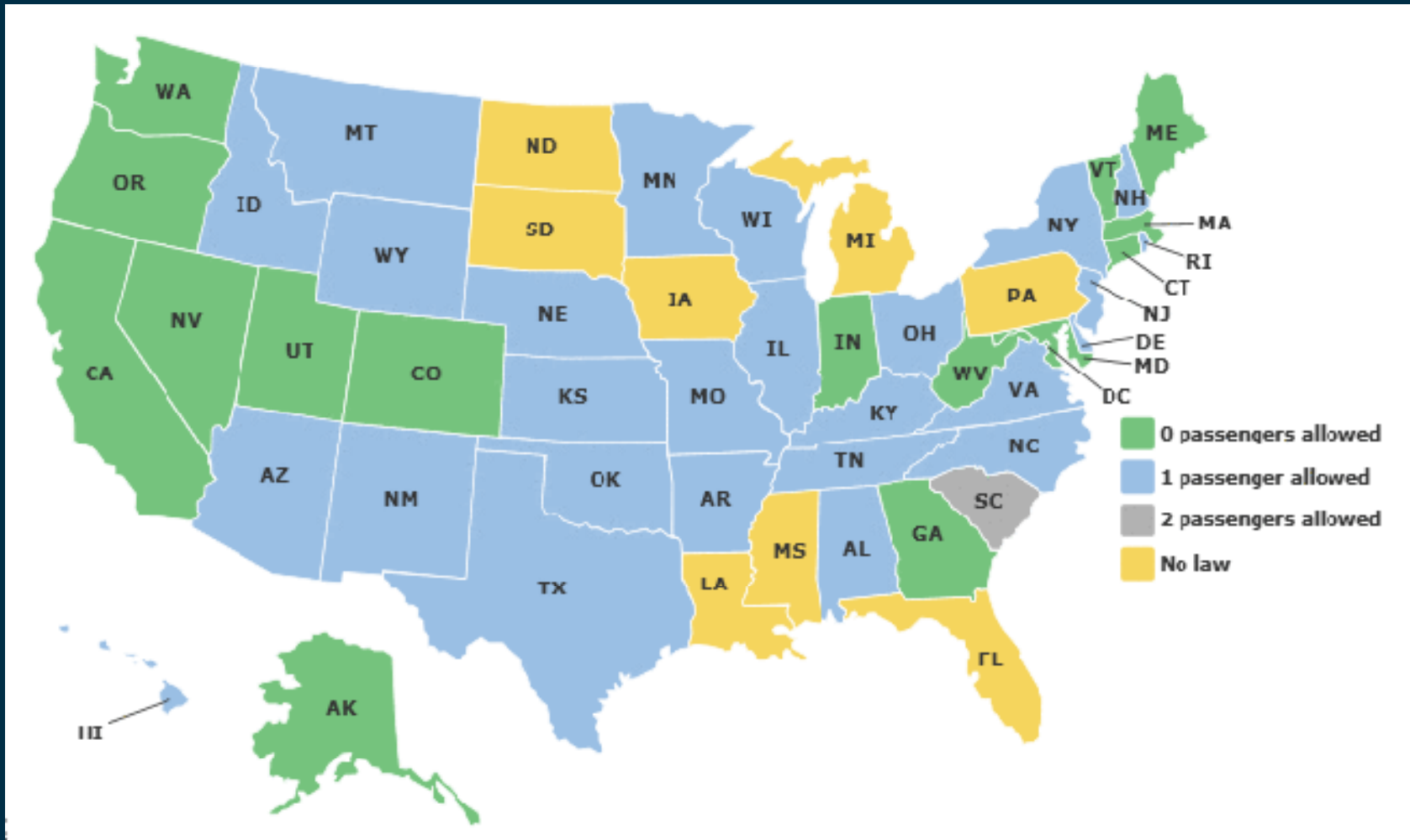
# Some Common Issues

- Personal Responsibility
- People don't comply anyway, so why pass something like this?
- How do we know it works?



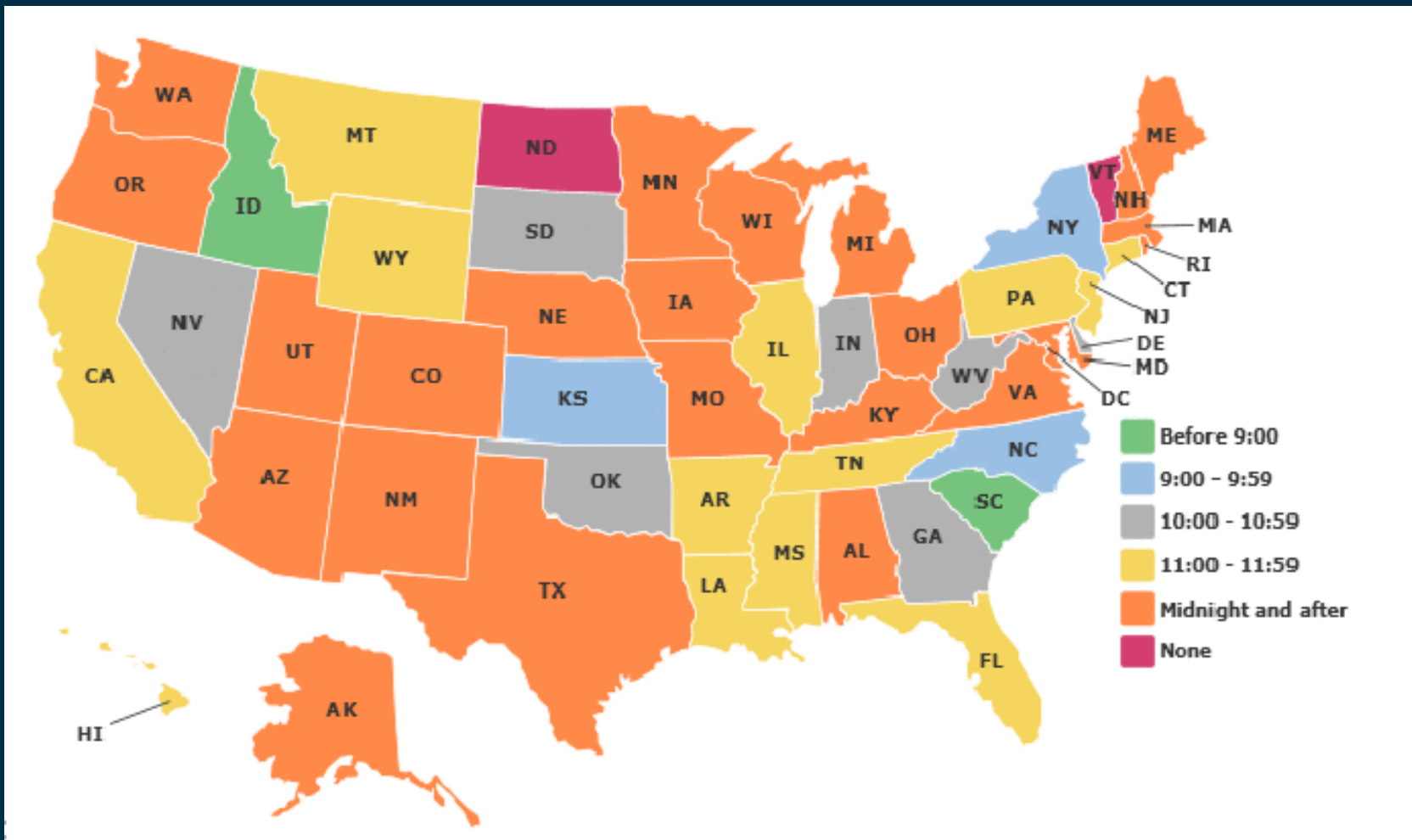
*"I was on my cell phone and working on my laptop when I dropped my Blackberry. Don't blame me, blame technology."*

# Passenger Limitations by State





# Nighttime Limitations by State



# 2011 Session

- Stakeholders regrouped after session.
- Prepared to move forward next session with the same proposal.
- Amended bill
  - No nighttime limit, passenger limit 6 months
- Passed Senate 38-11
- No Action in the House

# **Iowa can**

**Reduce emergency and long-term health care costs**

**Reduce costs of vehicle and property damage**

**Prevent traumatic brain injuries**

**Work together in a non-partisan way**

**Support parents of teen drivers**

**Incur no additional costs to the state**

**Make our roads safer**

**Become a leader again instead of a follower**

**And SAVE LIVES of teen drivers,  
passengers and other motorists on the road.**

**How can we do all of this?**

# What can you do?

- Sign on as a supporter.
- Educate yourself on the issue.
- Educate and recruit others.
- Talk to legislators and candidates about the importance of this issue.



# What can you do?

- Meet with legislators after the elections, coordinate a group of people to meet with them.
- Attend forums during the session, letters to the editor.
- We need you!!





# We can make a difference...



# Will you help???



Thank you!

Kathy Leggett

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